

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 29, 2018

Opposing a Gag Order on Health Services for Women

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a proposal to update the regulations governing the Title X family planning program. The proposed rule implicates the \$260 million federal program which underwrites the costs of contraception, reproductive health services and STD screening. Title X patients are overwhelmingly young, female and low-income. An estimated 11 percent of Title X patients in 2016 were male; two-thirds of patients were under age 30; and nearly two-thirds had income below the federal poverty line. In 2016, the most recent year for which statistics have been published, Title X served 4 million patients at just under 4,000 sites. Planned Parenthood's affiliates account for about 13 percent of all Title X sites but serve an estimated 40 percent of its patients.

According to administration officials, the proposed rules would (1) require facilities receiving federal family planning funds to be physically separate from those that perform abortion; (2) eliminate the requirement that women with unintended

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pregnancies be counseled on their full range of reproductive options; and (3) ban abortion referrals. All of these changes will directly impact the care and services received by LA County residents from an array of providers, including Planned Parenthood.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to (1) send a 5-signature letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II opposing the proposed changes to the regulations governing the Title X family planning program and (2) submit the letter in accordance with the official public comment process outlined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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